(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what would be the form of privatization, partial or complete; and

(d) what would be the basis of private participation, through public offer, disinvestment or both; giving the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) The Central Government decided to amend the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 to allow Indian companies both in the public and private sectors to mine coal in the country without the existing restriction of captive mining and to be engaged in exploration of coal in the country. Accordingly, a Bill, namely the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2000, was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 24th April, 2000.

The proposed amendment in the statute would enable private sector companies to obtain mining concessions (exploration and extraction) for coal bearing areas for the purpose of merchandise/commercial mining.

Divesting the Government stake in coal PSUs

867. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering a proposal to divest the Government's stake in all the coal sector PSUs including Coal India Ltd. and its subsidiaries and Neyveli Lignite Corporation in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Coal India Ltd. (CIL) has been conferred 'Navratna' status on 24.10.2008, with the express condition that CIL would be listed within 3 years. Accordingly, steps are being taken to convert CIL first into a public limited company and thereafter for listing/disinvestments. A decision to offload 10% of the equity stake in Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) was taken in the year 2006 which was subsequently kept on hold pending further review.

Revision of pension of CIL employees

868. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal India Limited had decided to provide pension to its employees who opted for the same under the scheme whereby pension was to be given by Coal Mines Provident Fund (CMPF) Organization as third benefit;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there was provision for revision of the said pension after specific period of time;

(d) if so, when the pension of employees was revised; and